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Charlotte, NC 28273

facsimile transmittal

To: Attorney General John Ashcroft Fax: 1-202-307-1454

From: Ronald E. Hosterler Date: 01/25/02

Re: Microsoft Settlement Pages: 2

CC: Strom Thurmond FAX: 202  
224-1300

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**972 Eagle Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29732-9007**

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

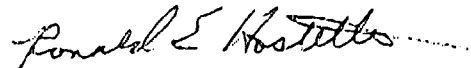
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

For more than three years now, the unfortunate Microsoft lawsuit has occupied the attention of the entire software industry. The resulting uncertainty about the future of the technology sector has discouraged high-tech investment and damaged the economy. Fortunately, your department and Microsoft have recently agreed on a settlement.

Under its terms, Microsoft must now disclose important proprietary information regarding its Windows product to competitors. Microsoft must also function under the permanent scrutiny of a three-person technical committee. These two parts of the settlement should be enough to show that Microsoft is willing to do whatever it takes in order for the federal government to get out of the Microsoft's private business dealings.

Those who wish to see the lawsuit continue past the stipulated period of public comment are more concerned with how to take more of Microsoft's money than they are for the public interest in the case. Ending the suit now is imperative to the future of Microsoft and for the good of the IT industry. We urge you to do all you can in seeing the currently proposed settlement formalized as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ronald & Carol Hostetler

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond